

IMPORTANT CONFERENCES AT BERLIN AND VIENNA

Effort to Establish Closer Economic Relations Between Allied Empires.

NO DEFINITE RESULTS YET

Industrial and Commercial Interests of Countries So Divergent It Is Difficult to Reach Satisfactory Understanding.

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, December 25.—Important conferences between German and Austro-Hungarian politicians and leading representatives of finance and commerce are now going on in Vienna and Berlin, for the purpose of finding a basis for establishing closer economic relations between the allied empires. Although several meetings have already taken place, no definite results have yet been obtained. The industrial and commercial interests of the two countries are so divergent that it is difficult to see how an understanding can be reached which will prove satisfactory to both sides. And so far every conference seems only to have discovered new troubles in the way of reaching an agreement.

Austro-Hungarians fear that just as present they are under the domination of Germany in military affairs, so later financial and economic independence will also be lost before the persistent and powerful monarch of Germany. The whole question is one of the most vital importance for the future welfare of the dual monarchy, and excites far more interest in the business community than the progress of the war.

Since the Franco-Prussian War, Germany has become an industrial state, while Austria-Hungary has remained essentially agricultural. With the exception of Bohemia, Moravia and lower Austria, which includes Vienna, all the other provinces of Austria are purely agricultural, and Hungary is overwhelmingly so. In both Parliaments, Vienna and Budapest, the agrarians always possess a large majority.

Nevertheless, both politically and militarily, a closer union between Germany and Austria is generally regarded as an absolute necessity, and will doubtless continue to be so long after the war is ended. But the problem as to how this is to be brought about is exceedingly complex.

MAINTAINS EXISTENCE BY PROTECTIVE DUTIES

By high protective duties Austria has long maintained an economic existence independent of Germany, and indeed even opposed German interests. In Austria everything is much dearer than in Germany, from 20 to 50 per cent. The difference in prices is especially great in heavy wares such as coal, cotton, steel and machinery. It is only through those protective duties that Austria has managed to develop a growing industry, and prevent the country from being flooded with cheap German products.

For some years Austria has almost monopolized the trade in the Balkans and the Levant, but lately German merchants have been creeping in there and capturing customers. This has been the case more than ever since the annexation by Austria-Hungary of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908, when Turkey and Serbia boycotted Austrian goods. The rapidity with which Germany seized the opportunity creates these markets caused intense friction in Vienna and Budapest at that time. Not has this feeling diminished since external trade has steadily grown in Southeastern Europe, while Austria has steadily decreased.

Now all these matters will develop under the war nobody can foresee. Undoubtedly Austria-Hungary is placed under heavy obligations to Germany for her military aid in the war. How and in what form will Germany require payment for such services? Protection through preferential customs agreements, or perhaps by a customs union, in either case, it is declared, Germany sends to gain all Austria and Austria to suffer all. For then German wares would swamp Austrian markets, prices generally would be forced down, and Austrian competition for the trade in the Balkans and Levant would be hopeless.

EASY TO UNDERSTAND COERCIVE OPPOSITION

Hence it is easy to understand the covert opposition in nearly all parts of Austria to Germany's efforts to bring her ally in closer commercial relationship. It is feared that economic dependence will surely follow military. For since the war began many things have occurred which indicate Germany's aim at bringing Austria-Hungary under her commercial subjection. Only a short time ago the big banks in Berlin sent circulars to the principal Austrian investors in the first and second Austrian war loans, offering to advance them 90 per cent of the face value of their holdings, provided they would use the money for investment in the third loan. The Austrian banks were only advancing 75 per cent of the former loans. Such incidents have created much distrust in the Austrian capital, and shown the necessity for exercising the utmost caution before entering into any new kind of economic arrangements with Germany, which may be fraught with the most serious consequences for the future of the dual monarchy.

Shows have doubled in price in Vienna in the last few months, and this largely through the wearing of the short skirt, which calls for higher footware. It is not that raw material is scarce at all; there is plenty of it from ox, calf and cowhides, but tanning materials are not obtainable at any price. Most leather comes from abroad, but their import has been rendered impossible by the war for some time past. With the tide of these American tanners could convert a hide into leather in three weeks; the same process now takes four months. Some of these materials are now costing seven times the ordinary rate.

PRICES OF SHOES RISE TREMENDOUSLY

And this has led to a shortage in the supply of shoemakers' leather, which has further increased by the women's demand for higher shoes, which take much more leather. The consequence is that prices have risen tremendously. Modern shoes of the cheap material formerly costing \$8 now cost from \$12 to \$16, while for better shoes \$16 and even \$20 are asked. Men's shoes have also gone up in price in the same proportion, although in their case no change in fashion has taken place.

Since a large quantity of tanner's materials has always been obtained from Turkey, it is impossible that new communications have been re-

Turns Her House Into Hospital



PARIS, December 25.—The Duchess d'Uzes, whose husband is a French army captain, has turned her house in the Rue de Courcelles into a hospital, as has also her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Luynes.

supplied with Constantinople, fresh supplies may be obtained.

One of the most difficult of all social problems—the care of the homeless has been solved in Vienna by the war. The number of these unfortunate persons this winter is far less than in many years. Indeed, so great has been the falling off in this class of mendicants that in many districts of the city the buildings erected for their accommodation have been converted into military hospitals, and homes for refugees from the Italian theater of war.

The disappearance of these "homeless" persons is chiefly due to so many of the men having been called to the army, when their wives and families are given relief playing places when their husbands were in work. Then, too, the young classes of the "homeless" who were formerly unable to obtain work in the city in the winter, can now get employment easily. The factories are constantly inquiring at the night shelters for workers. Then, too, "homeless" families are much fewer, because the landlords are compelled to show more consideration before ejecting tenants, and the families of revolutionaries are often better able to pay the rent than in normal times.

EFFORT TO DEVELOP CLOSER RELATIONS

(Continued from First Page.)

events scheduled for the two weeks has been done under the direction of Mrs. Robert Lansing, wife of the Secretary of State, who heads a women's auxiliary committee of 100 women prominent in social affairs of Washington and other cities.

Besides the opening reception on Monday night, there will be luncheons and afternoon receptions at the home of Secretary Lansing and Mrs. Lansing on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28 and 29; a reception at the Smithsonian Institute on Wednesday evening, December 29; a reception by the Cuban ambassador December 30; a night at the theater on Friday, December 31, a reception by the governing board at the Pan-American Building on Saturday night, January 1, the Pan-American reception at the White House on Friday night, January 5, and the farewell banquet the next evening.

TO MAKE EXCURSIONS TO NEARBY POINTS

Arrangements also have been made for excursions to Fort Myer, Annapolis, Mount Vernon and perhaps to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York. Special services will be held at many of the churches.

Eighteen of the twenty-one republics have organized associations, subscribing to the principle of codified international law, and have sent delegates who will take part in the deliberations of the Pan-American Institute of International Law. This will be the inaugural meeting of the institute. The government of the Pan-American Union has adopted, at the suggestion of Ambassador Suarez, a resolution tendering the founders and members of the institute a vote of commendation and encouragement. When he offered the resolution recently the ambassador said:

"As my colleagues are undoubtedly aware in October last the foundations were laid in Washington for an organization of a most interesting character. There was born into the realm of scientific life the American Institute of International Law, the object of which is briefly stated, to combine and utilize through a central organization in Washington and the co-operation of affiliated or corresponding associations in the other American nations, the intellectual efforts of jurists and thinkers of the continent for the development of international law, the generalization of its principles and the adoption of a common standard to ensure the enforcement of law and justice among the countries of the Americas."

The corresponding or affiliated associations have already been organized in eighteen out of the twenty-one American republics, and steps are being taken to constitute the other three.

"International law is not the patrimony of a single nation. It is the law

U.S. MARINE CORPS NEEDS 7,200 ADDITIONAL MEN

Major-General George Barnett, Commandant, Makes His Annual Report.

DANIELS ASKS ENLARGEMENT

Every Year Since Spanish War Service Has Been Called On to Maintain Order in Some Foreign Country and to Provide for This Work.

WASHINGTON, December 25.—An additional 7,200 officers and men are needed by the marine corps, in the opinion of Major-General George Barnett, commandant, as expressed in his annual report, made public to-night. Since the policy of the navy general board has been to keep the corps at one-fifth of the total enlisted strength of the navy, however, General Barnett recommends the addition at present of only 1,500 men, sixty officers and twenty-three warrant officers. Secretary Daniels has asked Congress for this enlargement.

Every year, since the Spanish War, marines have been sent to maintain order in some foreign country, and to provide the mobile forces for this work ship detachments and those on guard duty often have been drawn ashore.

"Based on the experience gained from many expeditions," General Barnett says, "I am strongly of the opinion that a mobile force of not less than 3,500 men should be maintained on the East Coast, and one of not less than 1,200 men on the West Coast. These forces would also be in readiness at all times for service as a part of the garrison of advance bases, acting as supports to the fixed defense force by protecting the base from hostile landing parties. This duty is of very great importance, as fortified harbors are very vulnerable to this form of attack. Approximately 3,600 additional men are needed for this purpose."

The report shows that General Barnett recommended two brigadier-generals for the corps, and that Secretary Daniels asks for only one in his recommendations to Congress. The secretary also reduced the number of marines asked for, from nine to six.

The report shows that 19 per cent of the total enlisted strength of the corps have qualified as marksmen in rifle practice. The full strength of the corps on September 30 last was 344 officers and 9,975 men, divided about equally between shore and sea duty.

KILLED AFTER QUARREL

Henry Lively, Former Mayor of Norcross, Shot and D. W. A. Knuckles Surrenders to Police.

NORCROSS, GA., December 25.—Henry Lively, former Mayor of Norcross, was shot and killed on the streets here late to-day. D. W. A. Knuckles, with whom Lively is said to have quarreled to-day, surrendered to the police. Lively is survived by a widow and two children.

TWO MEN ARE HELD ON LARCENY CHARGE

Special to The Times-Dispatch.

LYNCHBURG, VA., December 25.—John Broyles and Walter Dearing, white men, who were caught in the west-end factory of the Craddock-Terry Shoe Company here several days ago, have been held for the action of the January grand jury on the charge of the larceny of shoe soles valued at \$72,500. The preliminary trial brought out the fact that during the current month more than 1,200 pairs of soles have been stolen from the factory. A quantity of soles alleged to have been stolen from the factory and sold by the young men has been recovered by the police.

"I had heard nothing of this," he said.

Asked if he would go to Europe to take Mr. Ford's place, he replied he did not care to "discuss hypothetical questions."

WOMEN LETTER CARRIERS

Takes Places of Saxon Postal Employees Who Have Been Called to Colors.

Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.

DRESDEN, December 25.—Since the war broke out almost two-thirds of the Saxon postal employees have been called to the colors. Lately the mail service became so crippled that the authorities found themselves compelled to suspend the civil service laws and to follow the example of Prussia and other states by employing women as mail carriers.

Leipzig and Dresden already have over 100 female "postmen." Most of them are widows or daughters of post-office employees who were killed in the different theaters of war. Three of the women act as drivers of large automobile trucks.

CALVE SINGS FOR CHARITY

Will Devote Rest of Season to Concerts for Benefit of French Ambulance Supplies.

Special to The Times-Dispatch.

NEW YORK, December 25.—Emilia Calve, the French soprano, will devote the balance of the season to singing for the benefit of the French Red Cross committee, which is raising money for purchase of ambulance automobiles.

She will be heard at a concert in the Metropolitan Opera House on Tuesday evening, January 4, and later at concerts at Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.

"Instead of wearing conventional evening costume, Miss Calve will appear in the uniform of a Red Cross nurse which she wears while nursing in France."

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Edison Makes Gift to American People

New Naval Device of Far-Reaching Importance Perfected by Inventor.

NEW YORK, December 25.—Thomas A. Edison's Christmas gift to the American people is a new naval device of far-reaching importance.

He has been working on this idea in strict secrecy, and so engrossed is he in perfecting it that on Christmas Eve he remained secluded in his experiment rooms until very late.

But the wizard was more generous with his employees than with himself.

In order that the employees in his shops might have time for their Christmas shopping, he ordered that all wheels should stop at noon the day before Christmas.

Mr. Edison's plan for a great \$1,000,000 experiment station for the navy, which he advocated publicly last week, is not new in his own mind. It was learned to-day, he conceived the idea nearly a month ago, according to Dr. Miller R. Hutchinson, his chief engineer, and had already worked it out in great detail.

Dr. Hutchinson explained some of the things that had prompted Mr. Edison to urge the experiment station.

"Any one who watched the battleship fleet put out to sea recently," the engineer said, "must have noted that the great new Dreadnought slipped through the water like a greased onion. The smaller and older ships, on the other hand, piled up water in front of them in great masses.

"The difference was due to experimental work carried on in the naval tank at Washington. This incident shows the value of experimental work in the navy. Why not carry the thing out on a much larger scale?"

RUSSIA IN WAR TO END

Member of British Parliament Tells of Recent Conversation With Czar.

Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.

LONDON, December 25.—Sir Macdonald, a member of Parliament, who has just returned from a Red Cross mission to Russia, said:

"I had the opportunity of an hour's conversation with the Czar, whom I found to be in excellent health and determined to continue the war to the very end.

"To him the idea of a separate peace is abhorrent. I remember one phrase which His Majesty used, 'Great Britain can depend with the utmost confidence on me and my army.'

"All Russia is pervaded by a magnificent spirit of patriotism. The peace party there is smaller than the peace party in England. Just as the British recognized and remedied defects in regards to the supply of munitions, so has Russia."

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Hot Water Each Morning Puts Roses in Your Cheeks



To look one's best and feel one's best is to enjoy an inside bath each morning to flush from the system the previous day's waste, sour fermentations and poisons toxins before it is absorbed into the blood. Just as coal, when it burns, leaves behind a certain amount of incombustible material in the form of ashes, so the food and drink taken each day leave in the alimentary organs a certain amount of indigestible material, which is not eliminated from the body.

If you want to see the glow of health bloom in your cheeks, to see your skin get clearer and clearer upon arising a glass of hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it, which is a harmless means of washing the waste material and toxins from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels, thus cleansing, sweetening and purifying the entire alimentary tract.

Women who desire to enhance the beauty of their complexion should just try this for a week and notice results.

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